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TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, KS
SUBJ: POLICY PAPER ON INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN KOREA

SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT BY AIRGRAM A COUNTRY TEAM
PAPER REVIEWING VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN KOREA AND RECOMMENDING
A PROGRAM TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME OF THEM. THE
PROGRAM WOULD GO TO THE HEART OF THE KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS
DILEMA BY ASSISTING ORGANIZATIONS ALREADY EVOLVING IN KOREAN
SOCIETY TO UPGRADE THEIR POTENTIAL TO SHARE IN NATIONAL
POLICY MAKING AND WOULD SUPPLEMENT CONTINUING PRESSURE
THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMACY TO INFLUENCE THE ROKG TO RESPECT
THE PERSONAL INTEGRITY OF DISSENTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS TELEGRAM ABSTRACTS SOME POINTS OF A COUNTRY TEAM
PAPER WHICH IS BEING SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM. THE AIRGRAM
ENTITLED "INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT" REVIEWS THE STATUS OF
CERTAIN KOREAN INSTUTIONS AND PROPOSES AN ACTIVE PROGRAM
TO ASSIST THOSE INSTITUTIONS WITH THE POTENTIAL TO INFLUENCE
EXECUTIVE POWER ON BEHALF OF THEIR MEMBERS AND THEREBY
PROMOTE GREATER POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL
DECISION-MAKING.

2. THE ROKG CURRENTLY LIMITS POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN
GOVERNMENT AND JUSTIFIES THESE RESTRICTIONS AS NECESSARY
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TO MOBILIZE THE NATION FOR DEFENSE AGAINST AGGRESSION
AND FOR THE PROMOTION OF RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH. AT THE
SAME TIME, THE SOCIAL CHANGES WHICH HAVE ACCOMPANIED
KOREA'S REMARKABLE ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS ARE CREATING
THE HUMAN RAW MATERIAL FOR NEW INSTITUTIONS WITH THE
POTENTIAL TO EFFECTIVELY DEMAND THE RIGHT TO INFLUENCE
POLICY. THESE INSTITUTIONS COULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN

CREATING A POLITICAL BROKERAGE SYSTEM WHICH, WHILE FAR FROM A WESTERN DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, COULD LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR GREATER POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN THE FUTURE.

3. ASSISTING THESE INSTITUTIONS WOULD CONSTITUTE A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE DEMOCRATIC ENVIRONMENT IN KOREA, AND, SINCE IT WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WORKING WITH GROUPS ALREADY EVOLVING NATURALLY IN SOCIETY, WOULD HAVE A GOOD PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS.

4. IN WORKING OUT A PROGRAM OF SUPPORT, WE MUST BE AWARE THAT FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONS IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY HAS ITS DIFFICULTIES, THAT GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE TRYING TO CREATE CARBON COPIES OF US INSTITUTIONS IN KOREA COULD BE THE KISS OF DEATH FOR THE VERY ORGANIZATIONS WE MIGHT BE TRYING TO HELP, AND THAT PATIENCE AND TACTICS OF INDIRECTION WILL OFTEN BE CALLED FOR. NEVERTHELESS, MOVEMENT IN THE DIRECTION OF GREATER POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR US POLICY OBJECTIVES TO WARRANT A SUSTAINED EFFORT.

5. THE AIRGRAM WILL REVIEW THE STATUS AND POTENTIAL OF A NUMBER OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS, INCLUDING THE MILITARY, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE PRESS, THE CHURCHES, LABOR UNIONS, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL PARTIES, THE INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY, THE BUREAUCRACY AND THE COURTS.

6. SOME OF THE INSTITUTIONS DISCUSSED HAVE POTENTIAL TO FURTHER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT AND CAN BENEFIT FROM PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE. WE WOULD EXCLUDE THE MILITARY SINCE THEY ARE NOT INCLINED TO PROPAGATE DEMOCRACY AND IT WOULD NOT BE BENEFICIAL OVER THE LONG TERM TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN POLITICS. WE WOULD ALSO EXCLUDE THE CHURCHES SINCE THE US GOVERNMENT COULD DE FACTO BECOME INVOLVED IN SUPPLEMENTING THE RESOURCES OF STATUS OF WESTERN OVER EASTERN RELIGIONS AND OF CERTAIN DENOMINATIONS WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OVER OTHERS.

7. A MAJOR TOOL IN AN ACTION PROGRAM TO INFLUENCE INSTITUTIONS WITH POTENTIAL WILL BE THE AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM. THE SEVEN OR EIGHT GRANTS PER YEAR NOW AVAILABLE TO THE MISSION ARE WOEFULLY INSUFFICIENT.

8. OTHER TOOLS OF INFLUENCE WOULD INCLUDE: A) ENCOURAGEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN KOREAN INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR US COUNTERPARTS; B) INVOLVEMENT OF APPROPRIATE US NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS; C) PROMOTION OF SEMINARS TO ENABLE INSTITUTIONS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH ISSUES BEFORE THEM, HELP THEM PUBLICIZE THEIR EXISTENCE AND AIMS AND ESTABLISH LINKS WITH OTHER KOREAN INSTITUTIONS OR ELEMENTS OF THE BUREAUCRACY WHICH HAVE IMPACT ON THEIR INTERESTS; D) STEP UP MISSION'S COMMUNICATION WITH PROMISING INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR LEADERS TO ENHANCE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND VALUE OF GREATER PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT.
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